

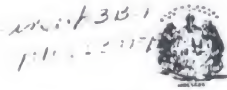
MLK Exhibit F-575

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ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
DIVISION NO. 22
JUDICIAL COURTS BUILDING
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103
HURST L. RANDALL, SPECIAL JUDGE

CONFIDENTIAL MLK E. F575

Congressman Louis Stokes;
Chairman, House Select Committee on Assassinations;
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Your Committee has subpoenaed me
to testify publicly in a matter
concerning one Russell Byers.
Byers, who is known here to be one
of the most dangerous criminals
in this city. He has received a lot
of publicity here in recent months.
Just a few months ago, in the
course of an on-going investigation
here of him by the F.B.I. and police

HSCA VII



ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
DIVISION NO. 22
CLERK OF COURT: JAMES T. GILBERT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63101
OFFICE: 1000 N. 10TH ST., ST. LOUIS, MO. 63101

With respect to assaults on one
Finer and related matters, it was
reported in the Public Press that
his principal associate in crime
was murdered almost immediately
after the associate visited an
F.B.I. office. I believe that this
man's murder was arranged by
the person to whom he and Mr. Byers
had sold the Statutes stolen from the
museum, and Mr. Byers is now
fearful that this publicity is classing
him an informant and the same
fate will occur to him.

ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT
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Mr. Byers
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ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
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BRUNNEN (COURT) BUILDING
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103
MURRAY L. MARSHALL, SPECIAL JUDGE

I believe my public testimony,
and that of Mr. Byers' will endanger
lives including my own.

Yet my testimony is of no real
value to your investigation. The
remarks Mr. Byers made to me,
while representing him in a civil case
(I never represented him in any
criminal matter), occurred several
months after similar remarks
by Mr. Byers had been reported
to the F.B.I.

Mr. Byers has told me that
this report was made by one Richard
O'Hara, a thin criminal partner



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ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
DIVISION NO. 22
JAMES H. HAY, CLERK, 1911-1922.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102
MURPHY & HARTMAN, 1911-1922

of Byers. As with most stories fabricated by criminals, those remarks only involved dead persons.

At about the time those remarks were reported to the F.B.I., Mr. Byers expressed serious concern to me as to whether Mr. Byers was an F.B.I. informant. I believe those remarks by Mr. Byers were fabricated and purposely planted with Mr. O'Hara for the purpose of trying to find out whether Mr. O'Hara was an F.B.I. informant, since the only person the F.B.I. could possibly check with was Mr. Byers himself. The F.B.I.



ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT
DIVISION NO. 22
JAMES H. HAY, CLERK, 1911-1922.
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apparently recognized such and did not say Byers, as to do so endangered the life

Mr. Byers told me the story of preparing a representation of what he was questioning

Mr. Byers is a person. I urge the F.B.I. before making any testimony and interfere with their investigation. George William Webb, Director F.B.I.



ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
DIVISION NO. 22
MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63101
MURRAY L. RANDALL, SPECIAL JUDGE

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apparently recognized them as such and did not interview Mr. Byers, as to do so would have endangered the life of its informant.

Mr. Byers then, I believe, told the story to me for the purpose of preparing me for possible representation of him in the event he was questioned by the F.B.I.

Mr. Byers is such a sceming person. I urge you to check with the F.B.I. before endangering lives with such testimony and also whether it will interfere with their investigation.
Very truly,
Director F.B.I. Murray L. Randall